

An Essay  
on  
Vaccination,  
Respectfully Submitted to the  
Faculty  
of the  
Homoeopathic Medical College  
of  
Pennsylvania,

On the first day of February  
one thousand eight hundred and fifty seven.

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Before proceeding immediately with the object of this Thesis, it will be necessary to say somewhat upon Variola or Small pox, thereby we may see the great boon in the introduction of Vaccination. For we must measure the value of remedial means, by the amount of benefit we derive from those means.

Variola or Small pox.

The origin of this loathsome disease is shrouded in mist and obscurity, and this darkness is made still deeper, by the desire of the earliest writers upon the subject, wishing to date its introduction further back



than they could substantiate.

Rhazes, an Arabian physician who flourished about the tenth century, appears to be the author to whom we are indebted for the first description of Small pox. Although some four hundred years before Rhazes, ~~we~~ find an old manuscript in one of the libraries at Leyden, which says, that both small pox and measles made their appearance in Arabia in the year 572. But from what is found in this paper, one would suppose that Small pox had existed in other parts before this time, and this was simply the year in which it was first seen

There a  
found  
in

in Arabia, The historian Gibbon  
inform us, that small pox broke  
out in the Christian Army at the  
siege of Mecca (562), and so ex-  
tensive were its ravages, as to  
cause the overthrow of the army.

The above are the only ref-  
erences we have of the disease prior  
to the writings of Rhazes, As we  
find no mention of small pox, by  
either Celsus or Galen, it is to be  
supposed that they were not ac-  
quainted with it. For in their  
works, we find almost all that  
was known of medicine or disease <sup>at</sup>  
before them, Rhazes, says that  
small pox was introduced into  
Arabia, from Ethiopia, But



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It did not become general until  
the close of the Twelfth century,  
when the armies of the Crusaders  
were disbanded, and they who  
had contracted the disease in  
the East, carried it with them  
to their homes, and for hundreds  
of years, it rode paramount  
to medical skill over the conti-  
nent of Europe, It has been  
estimated that in England Ire-  
land Scotland and Wales alone,  
forty thousand were annually  
destroyed, Washington Irving tells  
us, that in Twenty five years  
after the discovery of this continent,  
One half the population died of  
those provinces into which it was

introduced, In Mexico Three Millions  
and a half died in a single ep-  
idemic,

We can form but little  
idea at this day, what the disease  
was, And to what is the con-  
quering of this dread monster  
attributable? Vaccination!! This  
is the Champion, upon whose brow  
the laurels must fall,

For although  
inoculation did precede vaccina-  
tion, Inoculation did only ame-  
liorate, It was of vast importance  
to suffering and dying man.

Why was it not a prophylactic  
or preventative, instead of simply  
a moderator? Because it was not



Homoeopathic, And in this do many  
of the regular practitioners of medicine  
(as they are called) err, They say  
that inoculation is Homoeopathic  
to small pox. If they would but  
stop to think, and not go on  
in their blind fanaticism they  
would see that inoculation is almost  
making confusion worse confound-  
ed, Homoeopathy is not, same to  
same, but similar, Now inoculation  
is the same disease, But vaccina-  
tion is a similar one.

It is not certain  
where or when Inoculation had  
its origin. It has been ascribed  
to be of Circassian origin. They  
used it to preserve the beauty of

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Their women, It was known and  
practiced in Constantinople about  
the end of the Sixteenth and be-  
ginning of the Seventeenth centu-  
ries. The first account we have  
of its being performed in England  
was in the year 1721, and shortly  
afterwards was introduced into  
this country.

The operation was  
performed in various ways,  
some took the lymph from  
the small pox pustule when  
they <sup>it was</sup> ~~were~~ complete, and inserted <sup>s</sup>  
this beneath the cuticle of the  
left arm, near the ~~insertion~~ <sup>insertion</sup> of <sup>s</sup>  
the Deltoid muscle, by means  
of a lancet. Another plan was



to draw a piece of white silk  
moistened with warm water, through  
the pustule when perfect, and  
draw this through the skin  
of the patient, at the point  
mentioned,

Much benefit was  
derived from Inoculation, for  
the mortality of Inoculated Small  
pox was much less, than it was  
when taken in the usual way.  
Still there are some objections  
to it; But before we mention these,  
we shall take a hasty glance  
at its benefits, at the same time  
mentioning a few of the advanta-  
ges of Vaccination, over Inoculation.  
The period of in-

cubation of small pox, is twelve days, while that of inoculated small pox is eight days; by this means you could prevent small pox from contagion, by inoculating a person a day or two after being exposed to the contagion.

Small pox is milder in this form, but it is nevertheless contagious, and will leave pits upon the surface, more or less numerous, according to the severity of the attack.

It has still other advantages. You can choose the season of the year.

Small pox is most prevalent during the winter. Now



you can inoculate during the Spring or Summer, and then you have not to contend against the strong epidemic influence; for during epidemics, Diseases are most fatal,

As has been premised, small pox can be contracted from a person who has been inoculated with it. There is also another objection, It has to be repeated often, and one in fifty die, whilst by vaccination none die. While we say this, There is a single case on record, where in Pulaski County Illinois a physician was convicted of manslaughter,

and sentenced to two years and  
a half in the county prison,  
for killing a person by vaccination.

Having given  
an account of Small pox and  
its ravages, before the introduc-  
tion of inoculation, and some  
reasons why; it should be used  
as the least of two evils, we will  
now consider vaccination, its  
origin &c, we will also attempt  
to point out briefly that vaccination  
is a Sovereign, only; on account  
of its Homoeopathicity to Small  
pox, And in its obeying the law  
laid down by Hahnemann  
in the words, "Similia Similibus  
Curantur."



We have no reliable evidence when a pustular disease first made its appearance upon the udder of the cow, But we find an opinion prevalent (as far back as the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century), among the milkers in dairies, (in England), that that there was a pustular disease which made its appearance upon the udder and teats of the cow, and when they (the milkers) contracted this disease they were free from attacks of small pox. This disease was known as cow pox.

Dr Edward Jenner  
a student of medicine and a

great lover of Natural History,  
Induced by a magnanimous  
spirit of inquiry, Turned his  
attention to this fact, and  
frequently conversed with his  
Preceptor Jno Hunter upon the  
subject, but never obtained  
any very favorable reply.

About the year 1768  
he commenced investigating  
the cow pox, During this inves-  
tigation he found the cow was  
subject to two kind of pustules  
upon the udder and teats, One  
of frequent the other of rather  
rare occurrence, That of rare  
occurrence, showing itself upon  
the teats of the cow, in irregular



pustules, At first of a livid or  
pale bluish color surrounded  
by an erysipelatous inflammation,  
and sometimes run into phag-  
edemic ulcers, The appearance of  
the pustules is often connected with  
general disorder in the corr. The  
secretation of milk is lessened,  
ulcers appear upon the tongue,  
there is often cough and the  
hair of the animal falls off.

He also observed that  
this affection was enzootic, oc-  
curring where herds of the animals  
were kept, The disease was some-  
times very fatal, Fifteen to twenty  
pr. ct. of those attacked dying.

The other form was found

generally in the spring, when the cows were first turned out to pasture, or when suckling the calf. This form had no bluish tint, the vesicles formed and desiccated quickly, had no erysipelation inflammation connected with it, neither did it produce any general disorder in the cow. The former he termed pure cow pox, the latter spurious.

The cow pox in the milkers first made its appearance upon the hand or wrist, in an inflamed spot, which ran on to suppuration.

The pustules assumed a circular form, of a bluish color



with the edges slightly everted,  
The appearance of the pustules  
was followed by headache, fever,  
vomiting, and sometimes delirium,  
there was no general eruption on  
the surface of the body following  
these symptoms,

We find some  
authors disputing the fact, that  
small pox proceeded from the cow  
to the human subject. The main-  
tain that the disorder called  
grease in the horse was the  
origin of the disease, and that  
it was transmitted by the groom  
to the cow, (the grooms sometimes  
assisted in milking).

There is still

another doctrine abroad in  
the world among scientific  
men, They holding the belief,  
that it originated in man,  
and from him transmitted to the  
horse and cow, Being so modified  
in passing through the animals'  
systems, as to lose its identity  
but retain its similarity. But  
be this as it may, it was to the  
disease in the cow that the  
mind of the immortal Jenner  
was called, ~~to~~ and to which  
he directed his well advised  
investigations.

As every practitioner  
wishes to be different from every  
one else, we have many opinions



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as to what to vaccinate with, when,  
where, and how to vaccinate, Upon  
the questions when and where, most  
agree, The time from the third to  
the ninth month, The place where,  
Upon the left arm just above  
the insertion of the Deltoid muscle,  
This is simply for the sake of uni-  
formity.

The greatest diversity  
of opinion, is what to use and  
how to use it, Dr Jenner used at  
first the cow pox itself, After-  
wards lymph taken from a  
vaccine pustule from the fifth to  
the eighth day, This he placed  
upon the point of a lancet  
and inserted it into the place

mentioned. But now the plan generally adopted, is to take a small portion of a scab from a healthy child, rub it with a little cold water, until it is about the consistency of cream, and insert this into the arm.

When vaccination has been successfully performed, upon a healthy child, the incision may be felt a little elevated upon the second day. On the fifth day a vesicle is formed having an elevated edge and depressed center, on the eighth day it appears distended with a clear lymph.

The vesicle on this day is at it greatest perfection, Resembling



very much both in form and color  
the small pox pustule. Its margin  
is firm and shiny, with a round  
and elevated edge. At the close  
of the eighth day an areola  
begins to form around the pus-  
tule, this increases to the tenth  
day, and is then from one to  
three inches in diameter. There  
is now considerable hardness with  
swelling of the subjacent cellular  
membrane. This begins to subside  
on the eleventh day. The scab  
gradually dries up and falls  
off about the seventeenth day.

There is seldom any constitu-  
tional effects which should  
cause alarm. The system usually

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sympathizes about the eighth day,  
The child (if it be one) is fretful,  
skin hot, bowels occasionally  
disordered, these symptoms subside  
in a day or two with out any  
remedial means, It was recommended  
by Hahnemann to give a dose of  
Sulphur the Thirtieth attenuation  
upon the eighth day. It is done  
as a test whether there be any scor-  
butic tendency in the patient, if  
there be any (the system being in  
a vascular state of excitement),  
it will show itself upon the sur-  
face, and prove the virus unfit  
for farther use, At the same  
time allow the latent disease  
to be treated, and if judiciously



managed, the benefits will be felt in all future life.

In case the vaccination does not take, either from the matter being spurious or other causes, The spot becomes almost immediately the seat of inflammation, A scab is formed which is very friable and soon falls off, if then be any constitutional symptoms they come on and subside before the sixth day. This scab if not broken or lost, will be found wanting, the hard and deep red spot in the centre, A characteristic of the true and genuine virus,

In regard to the subject

of Re-vaccination much has been written on both sides, It is however pretty well established, that it is in many cases necessary to revaccinate. Upon the ground that after a lapse of several years, vaccination may lose in a measure its protective power, There is a case in which revaccination is considered by almost all indisputable, viz. In ladies approaching puberty or just before marriage, We shall not enlarge upon this point, But will simply allude to the fact, That pregnant females when attacked with small pox have their lives very much endangered, and in a large majority



of cases. Abortion or premature labour is brought on, thus being <sup>These</sup> dangerous and sometimes even fatal to the offspring.

If what has been said of Small pox being dangerous to pregnant females, And vaccination acting as we have asserted, only upon its Homoeopathicity. It is evident that neither vaccination nor revaccination can be performed with safety to both mother and child during that period. At all other times we believe; with out an exception it can be administered with impunity. resorted to